HAPPY VALLEY RANCHOS WATER, INC. (PWS #1090047)
SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT REPORT

January 10, 2002

State of Idaho
Department of Environmental Quality

Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the designated assessment area, sensitivity factors associated with the wells, and aquifer characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. (PWS #1090047)*, describes the public drinking water system, the boundaries of the zones of water contribution, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within these boundaries. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. drinking water system consists of one well. The well was drilled in 1976 and has a history relatively free from contamination. The water system samples monthly for total coliform bacteria. The last positive sample was collected 12/13/01. Follow-up samples taken on 12/28/01 showed the problem to be resolved. Disinfection is neither provided nor required. However, the water system does filter well water for the purpose of iron removal before it enters the distribution system. Additionally, the system's water has been determined to be corrosive, which had caused increased copper levels in the water at customer taps. Happy Valley Ranchos installed a corrosion treatment system in the fall of October 2000. The corrosion treatment system involves introducing a low concentration of stannous chloride into the water system and is expected to lower copper levels in customer's water.

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. should focus drinking water protection activities on implementation of practices aimed at maintaining current water quality. The water system should develop a drinking water protection plan that includes management measures for possible future potential contaminant sites, a public education component and contingency planning. Partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should be established and are critical to success. Drinking water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. Source water protection activities for agriculture should be coordinated with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Commission and local Soil Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Public water systems in Idaho drawing water from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer should consider forming a regional group to represent their interests before state, county and municipal governing bodies when regulatory tools like zoning overlays, or enactment of building codes are the most appropriate ground water protection measures. For assistance in developing protection strategies, please contact the Department of Environmental Quality or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR HAPPY VALLEY RANCHOS WATER, INC.

Section 1. Introduction- Basis for Assessment

The following sections contain information necessary to understand how and why this assessment was conducted. **It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this source means.** A map showing the delineated source water assessment area and the inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within that area are attached.

Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess the over 2,900 public drinking water sources in Idaho for their relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the delineated assessment area, sensitivity factors associated with the wells, and aquifer characteristics. All assessments must be completed by May of 2003. The resources and time available to accomplish assessments are limited. Therefore, an in-depth, site-specific investigation to identify each significant potential source of contamination for every public water system is not possible. **This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. The results should <u>not be</u> used as an absolute measure of risk and they should <u>not be</u> used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The ultimate goal of this assessment is to provide data to local communities to develop a protection strategy for their drinking water supply system. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treating a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. DEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a source water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Wellhead or source water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

Section 2. Conducting the Assessment

General Description of the Source Water Quality

Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. serves a community of approximately 250 people, located approximately five miles west of the community of Blanchard, Idaho (Figure 1). The public drinking water system for Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. is comprised of one well.

Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. is currently not facing contamination issues. However, the source water is high in iron and is also corrosive. The water system has been filtering well water to reduce the high iron levels and has been successful in bringing the iron content down to acceptable levels in finished drinking water. Corrosive drinking water often leaches lead and copper from customer plumbing. Water samples taken from the Happy Valley Ranchos drinking water system are high in copper. A recently installed corrosion control system is expected to reduce copper levels at customer taps. The water system is currently testing their corrosion control program and will resume regular sampling for lead and copper at the end of the testing period.

The system samples monthly for total coliform bacteria. The last positive sample was collected on 12/13/01. Nitrate levels are monitored annually and nitrite is monitored every nine years. Both are at acceptable levels. Inorganic chemicals are monitored every three years. In 1982 mercury was detected in a water sample at .7 ppb. The maximum contaminant level for mercury is 2 ppb. All follow-up water samples have shown only trace amounts of mercury or non-detectable levels of mercury. Detection of mercury in the 1982 sample is most likely attributable to sampling error and is not considered a current threat to the drinking water system.

In 1993 a water sample revealed the presence of Tetrachloroethylene at .0036mg/L, below the maximum contaminant level of .005mg/L. Like the mercury incident described above, this detection is likely attributable to sampling error. There have been no water samples positive for the presence of Tetrachloroethylene since the initial positive sample. And, the water system has obtained waivers for the reduced monitoring of volatile organic and synthetic organic chemicals.

Radiological contaminants are monitored by the water system every four years and are within acceptable limits.

Defining the Zones of Contribution- Delineation

The delineation process establishes the physical area around a well that will become the focal point of the assessment. The process includes mapping the boundaries of the zone of contribution into time of travel zones (zones indicating the number of years necessary for a particle of water to reach a well) for water in the aquifer. DEQ used a refined computer model approved by the EPA in determining the three-year (Zone 1B), six-year (Zone 2), and ten-year (Zone 3) times-of-travel (TOT) for water associated with the Rathdrum Prairie aquifer in the vicinity of Blanchard, Idaho. The computer model used site specific data, assimilated by DEQ from a variety of sources including the city and other local well logs. The delineated source water assessment area for Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. can best be described as a small, pear-shaped capture zone that is at its widest at the wellhead. The actual data used by DEQ in determining the source water assessment delineation area are available upon request.

Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

A potential source of contamination is defined as any facility or activity that stores, uses, or produces, as a product or by-product, the contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act and has a sufficient likelihood of releasing such contaminants at levels that could pose a concern relative to drinking water sources. The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of ground water contamination. The locations of potential sources of contamination within the delineation area were obtained by field surveys conducted by DEQ and from available databases.

The dominant land use in the area surrounding the Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. drinking water system is undeveloped and used for horse pasture.

It is important to understand that a release may never occur from a potential source of contamination provided best management practices are used at the facility. Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both to reduce the risk of release. Therefore, when a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation. What it does mean is that the potential for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation. There are a number of methods that water systems can use to work cooperatively with potential sources of contamination, such as educational visits and inspections of stored materials. Many owners of such facilities may not even be aware that they are located near a public water supply well.

Contaminant Source Inventory Process

A two-phased contaminant inventory of the study area was conducted during November of 2001. The first phase involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within the Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. source water assessment area through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System maps developed by DEQ. The second, or enhanced, phase of the contaminant inventory involved contacting the operator to validate the sources identified in phase one and to add any additional potential sources in the area.

There are no potential contaminant sites located within the delineated source water area (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Table 1. Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. Potential Contaminant Inventory

SITE #	Source Description	TOT Zone[1] (years)	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants[2]
No documented potential contaminant sites.				

[1] **TOT = time of travel (in years) for a potential contaminant to reach the wellhead**

[2] IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

Figure 1. Geographic Location of the Happy Valley Ranchos Well

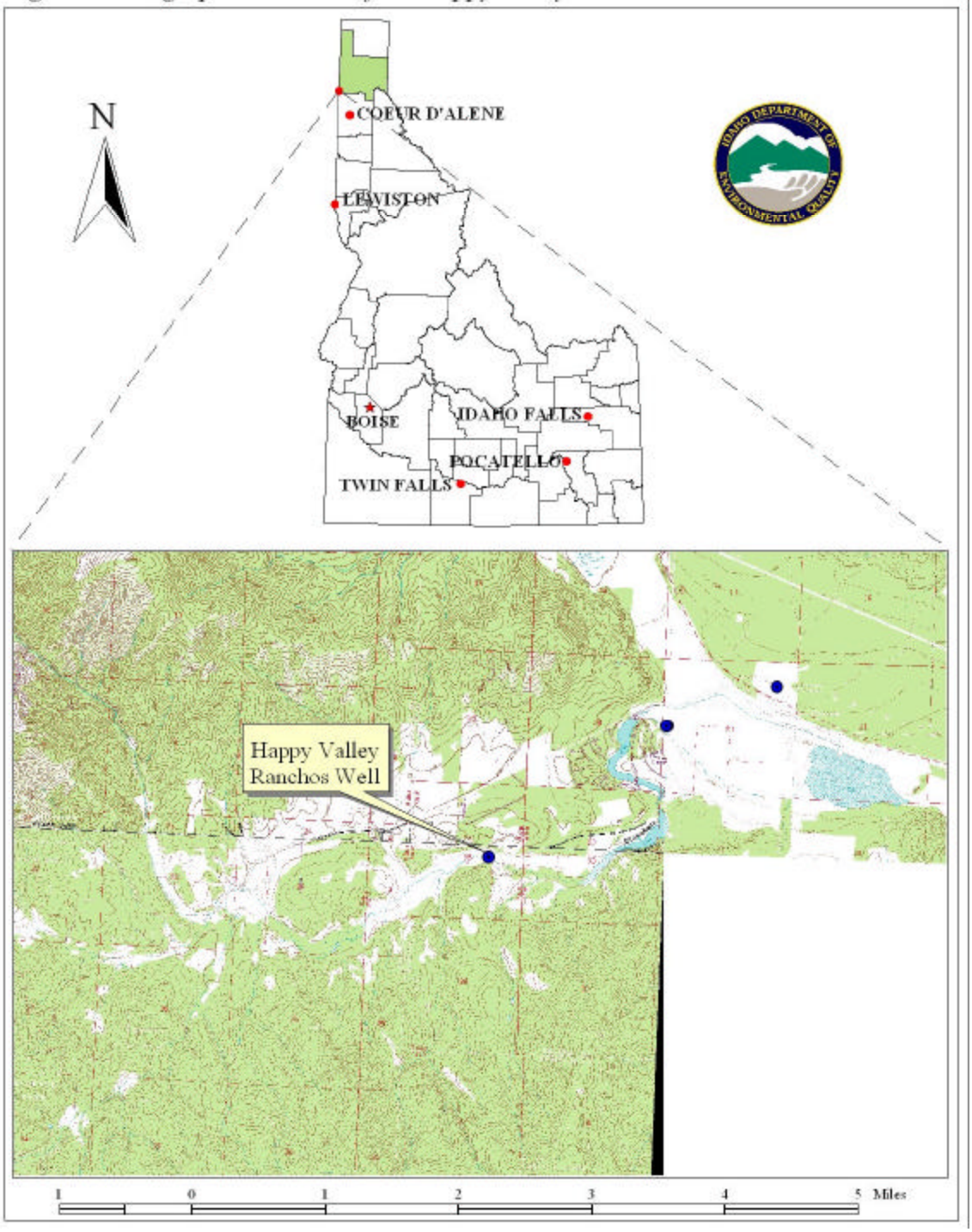

Figure 2. Happy Valley Ranchos Delineation Map and Potential Contaminant Source Locations

Section 3. Susceptibility Analysis

The susceptibility of the source to contamination was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: hydrologic characteristics, physical integrity of the well, land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each well is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking.

Hydrologic Sensitivity

The well's hydrologic sensitivity is high. Although there is a small amount of clay in the area surrounding the well, soils associated with the Rathdrum Prairie aquifer are generally porous. The Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. well was drilled into a sand formation.

Well Construction

Well construction directly affects the ability of the wells to protect the aquifer from contaminants. Lower scores imply a system that can better protect the water. The Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. drinking water system consists of one well that extracts ground water for domestic use. The well's system construction score is low. The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) *Well Construction Standards Rules (1993)* require all public water systems (PWSs) to follow DEQ standards as well. IDAPA 58.01.08.550 requires that PWSs follow the *Recommended Standards for Water Works (1997)* during construction. Various aspects of the standards can be assessed from well logs. Table 1 of the *Recommended Standards for Water Works (1997)* states that 8-inch steel casing requires a thickness of 0.322 inches. The Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. well uses 8-inch casing that is .350 inches thick. The well is 50' deep. A stainless steel well screen was set from 27' to 41'. The well was sealed to 23' with cement grout. The static water level in the well at the time of drilling was 8'. The well is equipped with an intact sanitary seal and is located outside of the 100-year floodplain.

Potential Contaminant Source and Land Use

The well rated in the low category for all chemical classes. There are no documented potential contaminant sites located within the well's source water assessment area. The well is located on a fenced well lot. The area immediately adjacent to the well is used as pasture for a small number of horses.

Final Susceptibility Ranking

In terms of the total susceptibility score, it can be seen from Table 2 that the well showed moderate overall susceptibility in all chemical categories.

Table 2. Summary of Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. Susceptibility Evaluation

	Susceptibility Scores[1]									
	Hydrologic Sensitivity	Contaminant Inventory				System Construction	**Final Susceptibility Ranking**			
Well		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials
1	H	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M

[1]H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, L = Low Susceptibility
IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

Susceptibility Summary

The Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. drinking water system is currently not threatened by significant potential contaminant sites.

Section 4. Options for Source Water Protection

The susceptibility assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what the susceptibility ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a "pristine" area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

An effective source water protection program is tailored to the particular local source water protection area. The State of Idaho and local health districts have instituted enhanced protection of the ground water in the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer because of its high use and uniquely pristine water quality. The protections are generally aquifer wide and are not aimed at zones of contribution to a specific well or water system. *The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Atlas*, sent to water systems on the prairie when they were invited to perform an enhanced contaminant inventory, describes some of the regional protection measures.

The 186 public water systems in Idaho that draw water from the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer should consider forming a regional group to represent their interests before state, county and municipal governing bodies when regulatory tools like zoning overlays, or enactment of building codes are the most appropriate ground water protection measures.

These types of measures could be used to protect the capture zones of a specific system or group of wells that could be put at risk from local land use changes.

Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc. should focus drinking water protection activities on implementation of practices aimed at maintaining the quality of their drinking water. The water system should develop a drinking water protection plan that includes methods for preventing contaminant-producing activities from being located in the well's source water assessment area in the future. They may utilize a variety of management tools to accomplish this. Examples of non-regulatory tools that the water system might consider are household hazardous waste collection days, encouragement of best management practices and informational brochures similar to the one that the system produces annually. An attempt should be made to notify local residents of the locations of the well and its source water assessment area. The water system should institute a cross connection control plan to reduce the possibility of contaminants being introduced into the water system. Another source of contamination that the water system must address is the horse grazing pasture adjacent to the well lot. Control of the well lot must be obtained by the water system and the well lot expanded to ensure at least a 50' buffer around the well. Lastly, the system's drinking water protection plan should contain a contingency component that outlines the steps to be taken in the event of a drinking water emergency and identifies an alternative source of water should one become necessary. Partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should be established and are critical to success. Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, wellhead protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. Source water protection activities for agriculture should be coordinated with the Idaho Department of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Commission, the local Soil Conservation District, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Assistance

Public water supplies and others may call the following IDEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the IDEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Coeur d'Alene Regional IDEQ Office (208) 769-1422

State IDEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: http://www.deq.state.id.us

Water suppliers serving fewer than 10,000 persons may contact Melinda Harper, Idaho Rural Water Association, at 1-800-962-3257 for assistance with drinking water protection (formerly wellhead protection) strategies.

References Cited

Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River Board of State and Provincial Public Health and Environmental Managers, 1997. "Recommended Standards for Water Works."

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 1997. Design Standards for Public Drinking Water Systems. IDAPA 58.01.08.550.01.

Idaho Department of Water Resources, 1993. Administrative Rules of the Idaho Water Resource Board: Well Construction Standards Rules. IDAPA 37.03.09.

Attachment A

Happy Valley Ranchos Water, Inc.
Susceptibility Analysis
Worksheet

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

1) VOC/SOC/IOC Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.2)

2) Microbial Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.35)

Final Susceptibility Scoring:

0 - 5 Low Susceptibility

6 - 12 Moderate Susceptibility

> 13 High Susceptibility

Ground Water Susceptibility Report Public Water System Name : HAPPY VALLEY RANCHOS WATER INC Well# : WELL #1

Public Water System Number 1090047 1/10/02 2:03:41 PM

1. System Construction		SCORE				
Drill Date	10/7/76					
Driller Log Available	YES					
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES	2000				
Well meets IDWR construction standards	YES	0				
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	YES	0				
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	YES	0				
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1				
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES	0				
Total System Construction Score		1				
2. Hydrologic Sensitivity						
Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2				
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	NO	0				
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO	1				
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2				
Total Hydrologic Score		5				
3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A		IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score	
Land Use Zone 1A	WELL LOT	0	0	0	0	
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0		
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		0	0	0	0	
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B						
Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	NO	0	0	0	0	
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum		0	0	0	0	
Sources of Class II or III leachable contaminants or	NO	0	0	0		
4 Points Maximum		0	0	0		
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	NO	0	0	0	0	
Land use Zone 1B	Less Than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0	
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		0	0	0	0	
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II						
Contaminant Sources Present	NO	0	0	0		
Sources of Class II or III leachable contaminants or	NO	0	0	0		
Land Use Zone II	Less than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0		
Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II		0	0	0	0	
Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III						
Contaminant Source Present	NO	0	0	0		
Sources of Class II or III leachable contaminants or	NO	0	0	0		
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of	NO	0	0	0		
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		0	0	0	0	
Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score		0	0	0	0	
4. Final Susceptibility Source Score		6	6	6	6	
5. Final Well Ranking		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	

Potential Contaminant Inventory
List of Acronyms and Definitions

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

Business Mailing List – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as ASuperfund@ is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by DEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.